



February 2021

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KY Cut Flower Short Course scheduled to start in March

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Coming up

Through Feb. 28 - Kentucky Proud® Virtual CSA Fair. For details, [click here](#).

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Getting Ready for Market webinars. See **Page 2**.

March 3 - Kentucky Virtual Local Food Systems Summit. 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. EST. A half-day of panel discussions with local food systems leaders from across the state. This free event will be held via Zoom. Registration is required. For details, see **Page 3**.

March 4-6 - Indiana Small Farm Conference. Virtual. For details, [click here](#).

March 30-April 1 - Intro to Vegetable Production Short Course, 6 to 8 p.m. Eastern time each night. For new or aspiring growers. Free. For details and registration information, see **Page 3**.

Cut flower production is becoming a fast-growing horticulture enterprise in Kentucky, with more than 70 operations being identified across the state. To assist commercial cut flower growers throughout the commonwealth, a Cut Flower Production Short Course will feature a series of virtual classes offered via Zoom to give new interested growers more insight into Kentucky cut flower production. Sessions will be offered seasonally during the 2021 season and will feature information on perennial cut flowers best suited for Kentucky, virtual farm tours, post-harvesting techniques, growing in structures such as high and low tunnels, and winter integrated pest management strategies.

Date	Topic
March 22 nd	Kentucky Perennials for Cuts
July 19 th	Virtual Farm Tour and Post-Harvest
September 20 th	Growing in Structures
January 24 th (2022)	Winter Integrated Pest Management

All classes will be held on Monday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time / 5:30 p.m. Central Time and will last one hour. The Cut Flower Short Course is free and open to the public. Since the meetings will be hosted using Zoom, access to a computer with broadband internet capability will be necessary to attend.

The first program for the Cut Flower Virtual Short Course will kick off on Monday, March 22nd with a discussion of Perennial Cut Flow-

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KY Local Food Systems Summit set for March 3rd

From The Food Connection Facebook Page

Local Food System practitioners and stakeholders are invited to join us for a half-day virtual local food systems summit. The past year has brought unprecedented change to all corners of our food and farming communities. The upheaval caused by the pandemic exacerbated underlying vulnerabilities while also calling forth incredible innovation and new and inspiring collaborations. While we may not be able to gather in-person to share great meals and even better fellowship, we can still gather virtually to share what we have learned and strategize for the future.

Please join us for the 2021 Kentucky Local Food Systems Virtual Summit, a half day of panel discussions with local food systems leaders from across the state and across our local food systems as we explore what's happened and where we're headed.

Panel discussions will include "Pandemic pivots

If you go

When: March 3rd, 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. EST

Where: Virtual (Zoom)

Cost: Free

Registration: required
To register, [click here](#).



on the farm" (KY farmers share how they adapted and innovated during COVID, and how those changes are shaping the future of our local food systems); "Scaling up and over" (Tales from the trenches exploring how wholesale markets and local food infrastructure are adapting to demand during COVID and building toward a resilient future. This panel will specifically explore developments in livestock, dairy, and small grains.); and "Crisis, care and recovery" (Lifting up how Kentucky's farm-to-school and emergency food organizations have leveraged the resilience of local food systems).

To see the complete schedule and a list of panelists, [click here](#).

KY Hort Council, UK offer Intro to Veggie Production Short Course

From the Kentucky Horticulture Council website

There is great interest (and potential revenue) in starting market gardens and smaller-scale operations to grow produce for commercial sales. From 6 to 8 p.m. Eastern Time on March 30th, 31st, and April 1st, the Kentucky Horticulture Council will host an Introduction to Vegetable Production Short Course with the University of Kentucky Horticulture and Entomology Departments and the UK Center for Crop Diversification. The training will take place virtually over Zoom, and topics to be discussed include marketing channels, site selection, pest management, equipment, production tips, and more. This course has no registration fee and is open to anyone in Kentucky interested in or just starting vegetable production. You must register through Eventbrite to receive the



Zoom link, which will come to your email approximately 24 hours prior to the event. Registration is available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intro-to-veggie-production-short-course-tickets-138429697953?aff=>. Questions? Email the Kentucky Horticulture Council at info@kyhortcouncil.org.

New resources include West Virginia heirloom beans fact sheet

The Center for Crop Diversification has partnered with West Virginia University to publish a new co-branded fact sheet, [Growing, Harvesting, Preserving Appalachian Heirloom Beans \(CCD-WVU-FS-2, ANR-HORT-21-001\)](#).

Written by WVU Horticulture Extension Specialist Lewis Jett, this fact sheet offers information on production, marketing, processing, preserving and saving seeds of heirloom beans. The CCD also has updated its marketing profile [Marketing Crops to Schools and Institutions in Kentucky: An Overview \(CCD-MP-19\)](#). Look for these and other resources on our website at www.uky.edu/ccd.



Future Harvest offers Tool and Equipment Sharing Platform

From Future Harvest

Do you have tools that don't get used every day, or only get used a few times a year? Thinking about purchasing a new piece of equipment, but want to try it out before making the investment?

Research conducted by Future Harvest in 2019 revealed that access to tools and equipment can be a limiting factor on both new and established farms. Certain pieces of equipment that may be critical for improving efficiencies on a farm, would enable farms to experiment with new crops or can improve management practices, are often cost prohibitive for farmers who are operating on narrow profit margins — and sometimes you just want an opportunity to try-before-you buy!

In response to this oft-stated dilemma, and to recurring requests from farmers, Future Harvest has created the Tool and Equipment Sharing Platform — a resource to facilitate farmer-to-farmer lending, renting, or custom hire, with the aim of increasing access to the tools of the trade.

How it works:

LIST EQUIPMENT: Farmers with equipment to share fill out [this form](#), where you will be asked to

set the terms for the lending arrangement, including: fee charged; length of rental period; pick-up and delivery options; custom hire availability, etc. Equipment submitted will automatically populate the Tool-Share Spreadsheet, where farmers seeking tools can search by any field, to locate the equipment that meets their needs, closest to home. Equipment is broken down into five categories:

- Hand Tools - Broadfork, Wheel Hoe, Post Pounder
- Tractors - 2WD, 4WD
- Implements - For BCS, PTO, 3-Point Hitch
- Shop Tools - Drill Press, Table Saw
- Other - Stock Trailer

When listing your equipment, you will have the opportunity to set a fee, minimum and maximum rental periods, offer delivery or require pick-up, collect insurance information from the renter, and more. We've also created a sample [Lending Agreement](#) for use in your transaction.

SEARCH FOR EQUIPMENT: Farmers in need of equipment can browse the list, organized by equipment type, location, or grouped by any field to find out what's available at the price / distance / terms that meet their needs.

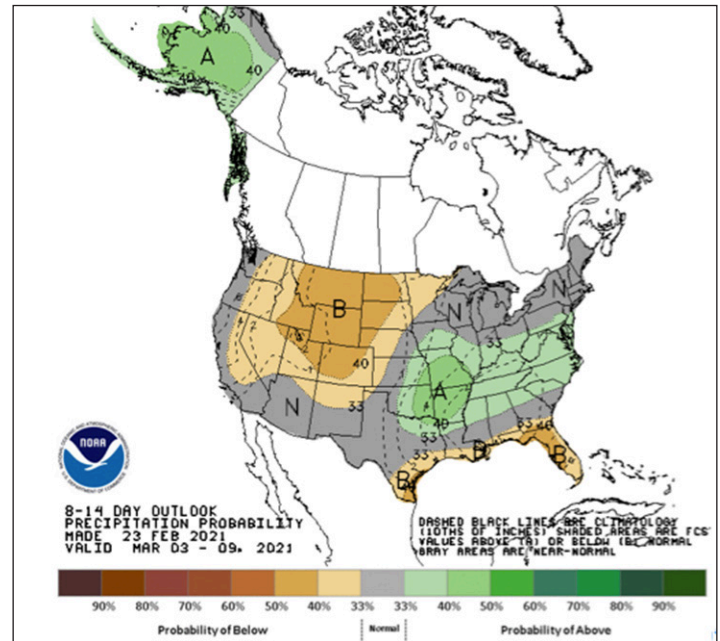
For more information about the platform, [click here](#).

Warmer and wetter start to March should last throughout month

By Joshua Knight, Senior Extension Associate, Horticulture

In an average year (from 1980-2010), March has typical highs in the upper 50s and lows in the middle 30s across the Commonwealth. With last week's ice and snow still in our rearview mirror, the warmer than average temperatures predicted in March are likely welcome for those on the roads and otherwise out of doors. That said, averages do not tell us of short-term, localized temperature swings so it is important to stay vigilant for extreme events.

What may be less welcome is the continuing trend of wetter than average conditions across Kentucky and the region in general. Above average chances of higher than normal rates of precipitation



are forecast to extend through the month. Fields may remain saturated for much of March with an increased potential for localized flooding.

Save the dates! Check out OAK's schedule of field days for 2021

From the Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK)

The Organic Association of Kentucky's planning for this year's peer-to-peer on-farm learning experiences is well underway, with multiple virtual events in the first half of the year and with fingers crossed for in-person events for the last months of 2021. Here's how the schedule is shaping up:

- Seed, Plant, Package - Sell! Specialty Crops from Production to Product, Salad Days Farm - Woodford County, April 8
- Pastured Poultry and Organic Hemp for Fiber Field Day, Butler Farms - Paris, May 13
- The Path to Organic Certification on a Diversified Vegetable Farm, Old Homeplace Farm - Clay County, June 2
- Tools for Minimal-Till Market Farming and Diversified Vegetables, Rains and Sun Hilltop Farm - Kenton County, July 9
- Virtual Farm Tour, Sustainable Harvest Farm - Laurel County, August 5
- Practical Tools for a Climate-Resilient Farm: Cover Crops, Biochar, and On-Farm Water Management, Barr Farms - Meade County, September
- Cultivating a Successful CSA with Production Efficiencies and Standard Operating Procedures, UK Organic Farming Unit - Fayette County, October

For details about field days and updates, [click here](#).

Meanwhile, OAK's membership meeting on March 4 will feature keynote speaker Eliot Coleman. This meeting is open to all current OAK members and there is no registration fee. If you have questions about your membership status, please contact robin@oak-ky.org. The meeting will be offered via Zoom from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. EST. To register, go to <https://oak.wildapricot.org/event-4141471>.

For more information about OAK, including recordings from the 2021 conference, [click here](#).

Thanks for reading!

If you know someone who would enjoy our newsletter, or you're not subscribed yet yourself, visit www.uky.edu/ccd/newsletter and click "Subscribe Now." Or call Brett Wolff at 859-218-4384, or Christy Cassady at 859-257-1477. Stay up to date with the Center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ccduky/>

Christy Cassady

Christy Cassady, Extension Specialist



MarketReady has gone virtual!

The MarketReady Producer Training Program is for producers and processors interested in selling products to restaurants, grocers/wholesalers/retailers, and schools. MarketReady will provide you with a professional marketing education to improve sales relationships and get you up to speed with the latest local food programs and resources. Three "core trainings" will be offered, followed by a series of advanced topics trainings. This national program, developed by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, will provide you with the tools for business success.

Core Training Dates & Times

March 16 12-1:30 EST/ 11-12:30 CST

March 18 6:30-8 PM EST/ 5:30-7 PM CST

March 20 11-12:30 EST/ 10-11:30 CST

Registration

Each training will be limited to 30 people. Register for the training at <https://www.uky.edu/marketready/>. You must complete the training or be a MarketReady alumnus to participate in later Advanced Topics trainings.



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College of Agriculture,
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